

able high titer antibody against a specific enterovirus, should an infant be transfused with maternal plasma?

DR SPECTOR: That is an interesting possibility. To my knowledge no systematic studies have been done to explore this concept, but transfusing an infant with maternal blood containing antibody may be helpful in treating enterovirus infection. These transfusions should be done before the development of clinically significant disease in an infant. Once enteroviral disease has developed, I doubt if antibody therapy would be beneficial.

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Medical Practice Questions

EDITOR'S NOTE: From time to time medical practice questions from organizations with a legitimate interest in the information are referred to the Scientific Board by the Quality Care Review Commission of the California Medical Association. The opinions offered are based on training, experience and literature reviewed by specialists. These opinions are, however, informational only and should not be interpreted as directives, instructions or policy statements.

Bilio-pancreatic Bypass Surgery for Morbid Obesity

QUESTION:

Is bilio-pancreatic bypass surgery for morbid obesity considered accepted medical practice or is it considered investigational?

OPINION:

In the opinion of the Scientific Advisory Panel on General Surgery, bilio-pancreatic bypass surgery for morbid obesity should clearly be considered an investigational surgical procedure at this time. A larger number of patients and considerably longer, detailed follow-up are necessary before this technique can be properly evaluated and adopted as established practice. The history of surgical treatment of obesity would suggest that a follow-up period of more than two years is necessary to determine that an intestinal bypass operation is free of long-term complications and effective in accomplishing weight loss.

There has been insufficient published literature on this procedure to adequately document its safety and efficacy.